

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State WASHINGTON

DEFINITION OF SPECIALIZED SERVICES

"Specialized Services" for a person with mental retardation or related conditions means a continuous program for each person which includes:

- Aggressive, consistent implementation of a program of specialized and generic training;
- Treatment, health services, and related services directed toward the acquisition of the behaviors necessary for the person to function with as much self-determination and independence as possible; and
- The prevention or deceleration of regression or loss of current optimal functional status.

Specialized services does not include services to maintain a generally independent person able to function with little supervision or in the absence of a treatment program;

Note: Residents requiring specialized services for a developmental disability may be provided these services in a nursing facility. Components of a specialized services plan may already be among the services that nursing facilities are required to arrange or provide. Two examples are in-house activity programs and social services. Other components of a specialized services plan may be services that the department must arrange. Examples include vocational services, educational services and some aspects of community integration.

"Specialized services" for a person with serious mental illness means the implementation of an individualized plan of care, developed under and supervised by a physician and other qualified mental health professionals, prescribing specific therapies and activities for the treatment of a person experiencing an acute episode of severe mental illness necessitating twenty-four hour supervision by trained mental health personnel. Specialized services are generally considered psychiatric inpatient care, emergency respite care or stabilization and crisis services that are directed toward diagnosing and reducing the resident's behavioral symptoms that necessitated institutionalization, improving his or her level of independent functioning, and achieving a functioning level that permits reduction in the intensity of mental health services to below the level of specialized services at the earliest possible time.

Note: Residents requiring specialized services for a serious mental illness are referred to appropriate in-patient psychiatric facilities for care during their acute episode. If a resident has been treated and his/her mental illness symptoms are no longer acute; and has been determined to require the services provided by a nursing facility, the person may be re-admitted to the first available bed in a nursing facility.